

For years myself and other neighbors have waited for the cable or phone company to either repair or upgrade our community's wiring infrastructure in order to have some form of affordable and effective broadband. Our pleas went unanswered, and so in an effort to help out my neighborhood, I formed a small wireless ISP this past month. I think it is criminal that I should now have to pay a draconian fee to help out the ILECs.

Where were the ILECs when my community needed help from them? When we begged and pleaded for bandwidth? Where is our broadband today? Nowhere. No cable. No DSL. Just me and a T1 that is only partially subsidized by my bandwidth hungry neighbors using WiFi equipment. I'm not even making money here.

So why can't the consumer and small business owner get a break here for once? Must we continue to go without broadband AND pay a penalty for attempting to resolve the issue on our own? It's injury upon injury, I say.

Leave the WiFi operators and small WISPs alone. They shouldn't be punished for taking the initiative to bring broadband to areas the ILECs have chosen to ignore and deprive.

Sincerely,

Don Bailey
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